

1. (Twice Amended) A method for reducing the amount of ammonia compounds affixed to fly ash, the method comprising:

introducing an amount of fly ash into a heating chamber, at least a portion of the amount of fly ash comprising particulates having ammonia compounds affixed to the particulates;

exposing the amount of fly ash to flowing air having a temperature of at least 1,500°F;

transferring heat from gases exiting the heating chamber to preheat a second amount of fly ash, at least a portion of the second amount of fly ash comprising particulates having ammonia compounds affixed to the particulates;

introducing the second amount of fly ash into the heating chamber; and

exposing the second amount of fly ash to flowing air having a temperature of at least 1,500°F.

3. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

measuring an in process ash temperature of the fly ash when the fly ash is exposed to the flowing air; and

removing at least a portion of the fly ash being exposed to the flowing air when the measured in process ash temperature reaches at least 900°F.

7. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the second amount of fly ash is preheated to a temperature of at least 300°F.

*B4*  
11. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 10 further comprising:  
using the heat recovered from the particulate material to preheat the second  
amount of fly ash.

*B5*  
14. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 13 further comprising:  
using the heat recovered from the fly ash to preheat the second amount of fly  
ash.

#### REMARKS

A new matter rejection was raised for claims 36-41 under 35 USC §112 first paragraph and 35 USC § 132. Claims 1-4, 6-19 and 36-41 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. patent 5,837,052 to Oates *et al.* ("Oates"). In view of the above amendments, and the remarks below, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

#### Claim Amendments

Claims 6 and 36-41 have been canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended to make it clear that heat is transferred from gases exiting a heating chamber to preheat a second amount of fly ash before the second amount of fly ash is introduced into the heating chamber and exposed to flowing air. This amendment has a basis at page 6, lines 23-29 and page 9, lines 24-27 of the specification.